

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of validating fields of a form in a client-server transaction, having executable instructions, comprising:

receiving a form having one or more fields on a server;

receiving from a client input data associated with one or more of the fields of the form; and

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validating the input data on the server once received or as received within one of the fields of the form.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

notifying the client as soon as an error is detected, if detected at all, within one of the fields of the form.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

identifying a specific resolution if an error is detected and communicating the resolution immediately to the client.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

processing the form after each field has been properly completed by the client.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the form is associated with a shipping request.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein communication between the client and the server occurs over the Internet.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the form is displayed within a browser.

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8. A method of processing a form during a client-server transaction, having executable instructions, comprising:
 - establishing a client-server transaction between a client and a server;
 - receiving input data from the client associated with a first field of a form; and
 - validating the input data before permitting the client to provide additional data associated with a second field of the form.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
 - interactively notifying the client of an error if the input data are not validated.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
 - suggesting a correction to the client to remedy the error if present.
11. The method of claim 8, wherein the client-server transaction occurs over the Internet using a browser interface.
12. The method of claim 8, wherein the form is associated with a bill of lading.
13. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
 - providing interactive help for the fields upon a request of the client.
14. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
 - linking a profile to the first and second fields of the form.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

automatically populating the first and second fields of the form based on the profile.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

completing the form and a client request with a single client selection identifying the profile.

17. A method of processing a shipping form having executable instructions, comprising:

receiving a shipping form on a sever identified by a client having one or more modifiable fields; and

- 5 interactively validating on the server any input data inserted by the client into one or more of the fields as the input data are provided by the client.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

associating a user's account with the shipping form.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

establishing a user's history associated with completing the shipping form.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

creating a customized report associated with the user's account or the user's history.

21. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

bypassing the validating step and automatically providing valid input data to populate the fields based on a user's profile associated with the shipping form.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the user's profile is maintained on the server.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the user's profile is maintained on the client.
24. The method of claim 21, wherein a single selection by the client initiates the bypass step and submits a completed shipping form for processing.

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